

The
New

Grizzly

Vol. 1 No. 2 August 2006

www.calguard.ca.gov/CAAG-MS/



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Official Newsletter of the California National Guard

Always Ready - Always There

Once again, the California National Guard is answering its nation's call. On Monday, May 15, 2006, President Bush announced that National Guard Soldiers would be sent to the border of Mexico. From that minute forward the exact details of what that mission would entail captured national media attention. After nearly two weeks of talks, negotiations, and numerous conference calls between the Governor, the White House, the National Guard Bureau and the California National Guard, Governor Schwarzenegger agreed to deploy 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen to the Mexican Border in support of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Initial guidance called for a two-year deployment, utilizing troops in annual training as well as long term ADSW status. I established a Joint Task Force (JTF) to employ National Guard forces in support of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol-prioritized mission requirements along the 145 miles of the Californian-Mexican international border. A thorough mission analysis was done to determine the requirements for each mission set and match the right National Guard capabilities. The next daunting task was to determine the logistical requirements of housing,

transporting, feeding and administratively supporting 1000 personnel.

Stationed in El Centro and San Diego, the Soldiers and Airmen of Task Force Vista started deploying to the border after June 1st, and built the force to more than 1,200 personnel by the end of the month. During the month of July they completed their required basic skills training, specialized Border Patrol instruction, and had a completely smooth transition of duties with left seat-right seat rides. Once completed, Guard members will assume the various duties of California Border Patrol agents such as intelligence

analysis, listening and observations posts, patrols, vehicle maintenance, camera operations, and other support duties in order to release the agents for law enforcement duties along the border.

As always, the Soldiers, Airmen, and families of the California National Guard responded quickly, professionally, and without hesitation. **Always Ready – Always There**, the California National Guard remains the *Most Important Part-time Job in America*.

I am proud to be your Adjutant General. Thanks you for your dedicated and selfless service.



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II

Operation Jump Start - Situation Map



Senior Enlisted Advisor

Did You Ever Think...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the Soldiers and Airmen that raised their hand to volunteer for the "Border Mission". It almost seems like it was a test to see if our California National Guardsmen and women could and would respond to yet another emergency. You passed with flying colors. Another pat on the back must go out to those that will stay "rear det" for they have the responsibility to support the deployed members as well as maintain a steady state of readiness.

Did you ever think that as an infantry Soldier or a combat communications specialist, or maybe a mechanic, you might

someday be called upon to help the Border Patrol protect our southern borders? Although we aren't serving in a law enforcement capacity, we are doing the next best thing, and that is in direct support of those that have the responsibility. There are many Soldiers and Airmen serving jointly in various jobs throughout the Area of Responsibility. It is very important that those of us that remain at our armories and wings make sure that the deployed members are supported, and that we don't let minor issues become "wildfires". Please take the time to know who you've got out there, serving on this or any mission that takes them away from home. Assure that they have met the needs for their

personal care and that of their families as well. Do not think for one minute that because they are on orders and down range they don't belong to you. It is important that we remain vigilant and ready to support them at all times.

Don't ever wonder why, we know why. We are Soldiers and Airmen and it is our duty to respond when our President, Governor and Adjutant General determine it is in the best interest of the American people that the National Guard answer the call. Thank you for your service and God Bless America.



Command Chief Master Sgt. Henry V. Fernandez

Grizzly Newsletter

Vol 1. No. 2 August 2006
The Official Newsletter of the
California National Guard

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The New Grizzly

From the Editor

"One weekend a month, two weeks a year," was the slogan used by the National Guard for decades. 9/11 made that a misnomer. More than 20,000 Soldiers & Airmen from the California National Guard have been deployed since that day, and while deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan capture media attention, our Soldiers and Airmen have deployed around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism. From Kuwait to Germany to Guantanamo Bay thousands of California National Guardsmen have answered the call to duty. Our dual mission has lead to the deployment of the CNG to support civil authorities with earthquakes, fires, riots and floods. The 'Border Mission' will prove to once again that the California National Guard is a professional organization that takes it charge to protect and serve seriously.

The Public Affairs Office recognizes the need to bring up to date and informative articles to our troops. The Grizzly Magazine now Grizzly Newspaper will be produced monthly to capture training events as they happen; pass on guidance from the leadership; and introduce changes in policy benefits and missions.

STORY SUBMISSIONS:

If you have a story or event that you would like featured in the Grizzly you now have two options. You can submit an article as a feature story or you can send a 'blurb' for 'At a Glance.' Follow these simple guidelines:

Pictures - must tell a story avoid posed or 'family portrait' style and be highest resolution possible. Action shots are best and should include a CNG member when possible.

For 'At a Glance' write five to six sentences that states the why, what, when who and where.

Remember to include photographer credit and identify personnel in picture - Rank and CORRECT SPELLING of names.

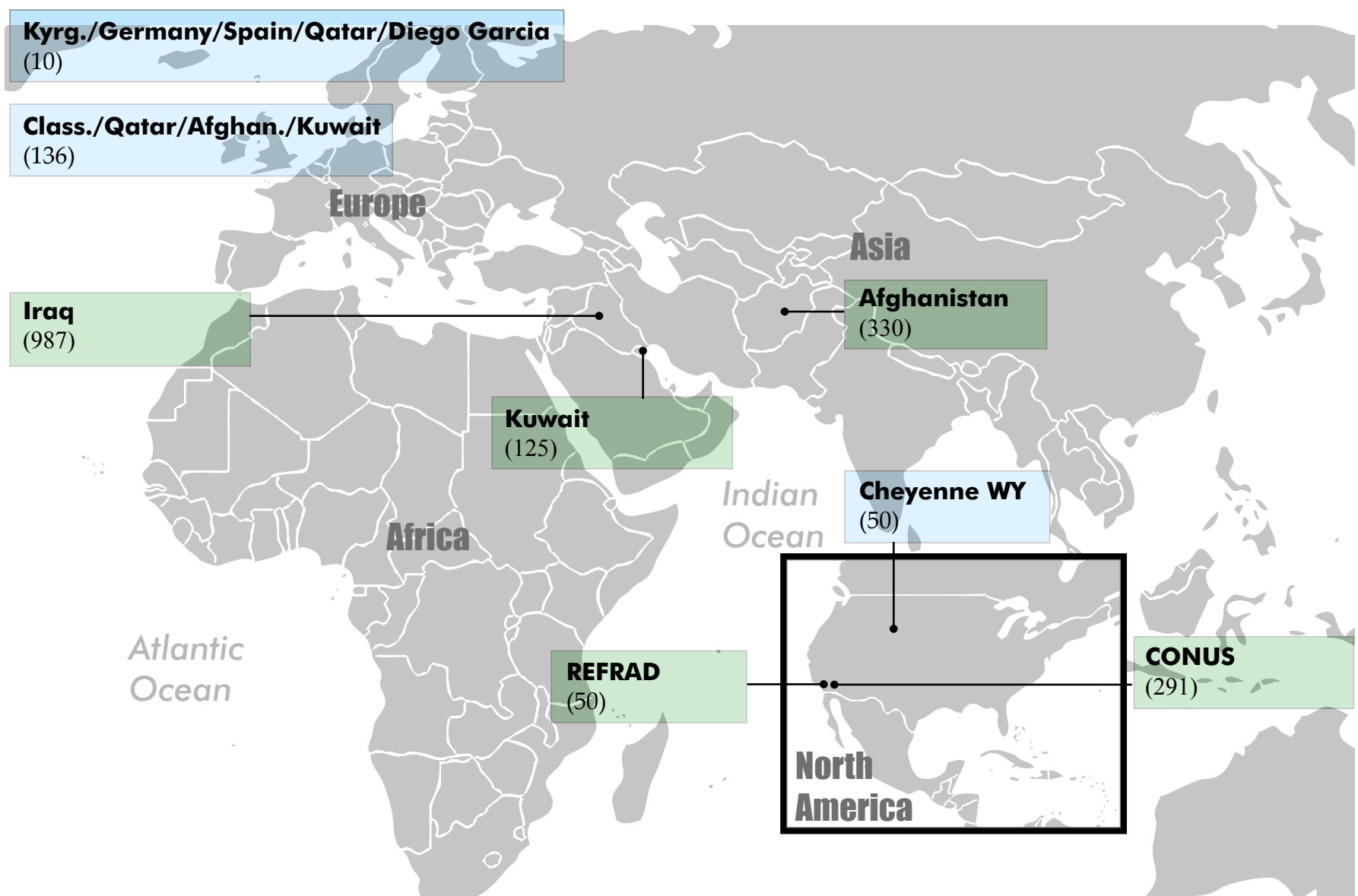
Email story submissions and/or comments to:
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Cover photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Prouse

*We don't have
visibility of all the
great training that
happens throughout
the California
National Guard.
Drop us a line so
that we can highlight
your Soldiers'
and Airmen's
accomplishments!*

Where We Are

The California National Guard as of July 2006



Task Force Vista

Task Force Vista, Border Mission, is a federally funded mission in which the California National Guard (CNG) will support the Customs and Border Patrol. CNG forces will provide support in eight general mission areas, to include operations, air support, ground transportation, command and control, base operations, maintenance, civil engineering, and ports of entry augmentation. The CNG will NOT engage in direct law enforcement or apprehension activities. As the mission develops, you will see updates in the Grizzly. In an effort to answer some questions we have outlined several key points to Task Force Vista:

The California National Guard is ready to perform this mission.

California's Adjutant General has established a Joint Task Force (JTF) to employ the California National Guard forces to support prioritized Customs and Border Patrol Sector mission requirements. These forces will be either part of a duration force or part of a rotational force.

The duration force will:

Form the core of the deployed forces to provide consistency and reduce the logistical difficulties of continuous rotational forces.

Initially be on orders for periods of up to one year

Be composed of volunteers and make up the majority of the 1000 person JTF

Provide command, control, and support throughout the operation

Conduct support operations that cannot or should not be performed by rotational forces

Coordinate training plans and operations of the supported and supporting states

The rotational force will:

Leverage Annual Training to the maximum extent possible

Rotation lengths will vary based on mission set and Service norms, but will typically be 2-3 weeks

Be scheduled on a unit basis to overlap to minimize operational gaps

The CNG has identified the need for 1,000 personnel to support this mission. While these forces may not all come from CA, in testament to our Soldiers' sense of duty and commitment, about 700 Soldiers have already responded to the Governor's call by volunteering.

CNG forces will provide support in eight general mission areas, to include operations, air support, ground transportation, command and control, base operations, maintenance, civil engineering, and ports of entry augmentation.

The mission will be conducted in multiple phases: From the current assessment and preparation phase, we are moving into the force build-up phase and bringing initial forces on board to conduct detailed mission planning and identify available manpower. The mission will be executed during the sustained

operations phase, which we expect to begin in mid-July.

Priority of initial phase is relieving CBP agents from non-enforcement duty with National Guard personnel so CBP agents can conduct enforcement duty

These personnel will receive specialized training or instructions before deployment to their actual mission sites.

The mission will end once the Customs and Border Patrol has enough agents to assume the mission or on December 31, 2008, whichever comes first.

National Guard forces will not engage in direct law enforcement or apprehension activities.

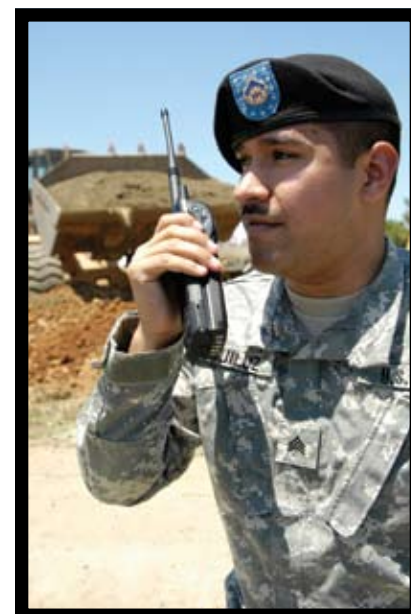
This mission will not degrade the ability of the California National Guard to respond to state or federal emergencies

Our Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen will perform this mission under the command and control of the governors, and under the funding of the federal government (Title 32)

Any new missions will be evaluated against our ability to respond to emergencies here in the state as well as our ability to respond to federal missions in support of the global war on terror.

We continue to support US Customs and Border Protection in our ongoing counter-narcotics missions along the southern border. That support includes logistics, engineering, observation and reconnaissance support.

The Governor will retain the authority to recall border forces if necessary to support state emergency response missions.



This is a federally funded mission, with the forces under control of the Governor.

Soldiers returning from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan will not be involuntarily ordered to duty at the border.

California has the largest National Guard in the nation, and expects to retain over 15000 Guardsmen available for state missions even after providing support to Jump Start and our federal missions overseas

The CNG will operate in support of CBP and not perform direct law enforcement missions.

Border security is and should remain a civilian law enforcement responsibility --- The National Guard will play no direct role in apprehension activities or other law enforcement

Military support to reinforce border security is a temporary bridge until civilian law enforcement can increase its own capabilities

The National Guard's unique capabilities allow the Department of Defense to partner with the Department of Homeland Security in an integrated civilian and military effort. For years, the National Guard has helped federal and state law enforcement agencies to counter the flow of illegal drugs across our border

The National Guard does not conduct domestic intelligence operations

Information Current
as of July 2006



Soldier Appreciation Day Celebrates Service Members and their Families

By PV2 A. Lynn Gettman

Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), normally a quiet military base located in the heart of Orange County, was hopping with festivities June 3 during the Third Annual Soldier Appreciation and the First Annual Human Resource Employment and Wellness Symposium. The California Army National Guard (CA-ANG) and 40th Infantry Division (ID) Family Readiness Group (FRG) invited and hosted a consortium of patriotic organizations to participate in a "Welcome Home" extravaganza of wellness, education and employment offerings exclusively for military service members and their families.

"It was great. The children's events were excellent, the food and the band were all excellent," said 1st Sgt. Paul Fallat of A Co, 3/160th Inf. in Glendale. Fallat, recently returned from the Multi-Observation Force deployment on the Sanai Peninsula. He welcomed the opportunity to share some of his drill weekend with his wife and three of his four children.

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) proudly presented its Third annual Soldier Appreciation Day festivities. Special guests included: Korean War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Capt. Lewis Lee Millett, US Army; Maj. Gen. General Wade, Maj. Gen. Mock, Maj. Gen. Gidley, Brig. Gen. Combs, the 82nd Airborne Choir and many other military dignitaries. Other special guests included the cast from the popular television series "The Unit," and Miss America 2006.

The sky was alive with silk and suspension lines of parachutes from the 40th's very own Ranger unit; the 160th Long Range Surveillance Detachment (LRSD) filled the skies in chock formations. "The paratroopers jumping from the sky were really exciting," said Lynn Mauricio, family member.

A parade lead by the 40th Infantry Division marching band and con-

sisting of different California based units from the 40th Infantry Division, 63rd Regional Readiness Command, 311th Support Command Corps (COSCOM), marched by the grand stands where the crowds roared in pride.

Soldiers and their families had a wide range of events to take part in. A static display of tanks fascinated family members, while the petting zoo and elephant ride delighted the children of all ages.

"Our kids were really excited about the tanks and the petting zoo," said Irish Guevarra, wife of Sgt. John J. Guevarra, HHC 40th Infantry Division.

The AUSA show, hosted by June Berry, Miss America 2006, provided live entertainment on the main stage. The 82nd Airborne choir performed in front of a large audience of an estimated crowd of 4000. Soldiers and their spouses were also recognized for their outstanding support and achievements.

A big white-top tent housed the dining

facilities. A hometown Bar-B-Que was provided by Mr. Del King, of Operation BBQ for the Troops. An aroma so striking of hickory flavor sauce filled the air around the base luring attendees to the big white-top tent to be served a variety of beef, chicken and vegetables and other home-style dishes.

The core cause for the weekend was to provide employment, education and wellness opportunities to returning service members and their families.

California chapters of the Sergeant Majors Association, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 40th ID FRG. Veterans Resource Center, in cooperation with Premier Marketing Services, Inc. (PMSi) produced the Employment Symposium (Job Fair) with Fortune 500 employers and portions of the Seminars.

"As members of the U.S. Military, they face new challenges with finding resourceful employment opportunities. We are looking to America's businesses and their Human Resource Professionals to participate in providing employment opportunities and resources for our service members and their families," said Jesse Medina, US Army retired and President of Premier Marketing Services, Inc., the producers of the Employment Symposium (Job Fair), in conjunction with military affiliated organizations. "PMSi will continue to market the military applicant to corporate America to get them better and higher paying jobs. I believe businesses realize their getting a whole package when they hire a veteran who comes with a value add of being well adjusted and skillfully proficient."



PHOTO: SFC STEVEN CROOKS



PHOTO: PVT. A. LYNN GETTMAN



PHOTO: SFC ELLIE HEAGNEY



PHOTO: SFC STEVEN CROOKS

Duties of a Unit Ministry Team

By CH (LTC) Lawrence M. Hendel

On October 24, 2004 members of the California Army National Guard, 40th Infantry Division (ID), 3rd Brigade, 1/160 Infantry Battalion, and National Guard units from 26 states were activated to comprise Task Force Falcon. Task Force Falcon is assigned to the ongoing peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. Within this task force were five Unit Ministry Teams (UMT).

Over the course of the fifteen month deployment each UMT provided religious support, pastoral counseling and consolation through prayer. Soldiers soon bonded with their chaplains and chaplain assistants through worship opportunities, conversations in the dining halls or pastoral visits to their work sites. Occasionally the Battalion UMTs went on patrol with a squad from their assigned unit. Patrols on a peace keeping mission meant walking through villages or towns and talking with the local populace to get the pulse of what was going on in that community. Chaplains always had wonderful experiences explaining what chaplains do to support Soldiers and by working with the local religious leaders in a peacekeeping environment. Even in a diverse region like Kosovo, where the predominant religion was Islam, there were also Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox.

Let me focus on a few activities

of the Unit Ministry Teams. First, I found remarkable that although Soldiers were away from home, separated by time and distance, they still chose to practice their faith and develop local congregations for worship, prayer and fellowship. Each UMT offered several worship opportunities each weekend for the Protestant and Catholic Soldiers. Opportunities were also provided for the Jewish Soldiers to observe Passover and other high holidays. The month of Ramadan observed by Muslims became better understood by the Task Force, as several individuals observed their tradition of fasting and prayer. All faiths were practiced and respected.

Second, our predecessors began trips to Greece in order for the Soldiers to walk in some of the footsteps of Saint Paul. These trips were open to any Soldier who wished to participate after fulfilling the necessary pre-requisites: view eight sessions of an introductory videotape series on the life of St. Paul, get the required permissions from commanders and pay a reasonable fee for the trip. I believe that each Soldier who participated, more than 647 Soldiers total, came away with a new appreciation for the people and history of Greece. Also a sense that the Christian scriptures are connected to real people in real places— like Philippi and Amphipolis.

Lastly, while each worship group had their specific charisma and attraction, one thing bound them all together - their generosity. Each Sunday we took up designated offerings to support the work of local non-governmental agencies or charities that served people in need. We were able to help the Women's Center in the city of Gjilane that offered refuge and assistance to battered women, day care for their children, and classes to help the women become more self-sufficient. We also supported the local chapter of the Mother Teresa Society that served the "poorest of the poor." In Kosovo there are very poor people living

in primitive of conditions. Soldiers offered their generosity to improve the lives of people in their villages and towns by supporting the Red Cross, a soup kitchen, and an orphanage

Over the entire period of activation and deployment the Unit Ministry teams provided worship opportunities, encouraged worship communities and provided safe havens for Soldiers in need and gave them means to share their generosity. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve with these chaplains and chaplain assistants.



Government Affairs

Office of Governmental Affairs

Mission: The Office of Governmental Affairs serves as the Military Department's liaison with the Governor's office the State Legislature and our Congressional Representatives as well as other local state and federal governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. A primary function of Governmental Affairs is to identify the legislative needs of the Military Department and the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard and attain legislative support for those needs from our elected officials. Governmental Affairs monitors and reports on state and federal legislation that impact the Military Department and the California National Guard as well as provides technical information for legislative committees and staff and provides testimony at Senate and Assembly committee hearings. Governmental Affairs also manages and responds to legislative and Congressional inquiries received from elected officials' constituents as well as works special projects as requested from our elected officials and other state agencies.

Current Bills

AB 1936, authored by Assemblyman DeVore, would create a special "California National Guard Member" license plate for California National Guard members. As with other specialized license plates, there would be a small DMV fee required (approximately \$40) for the California National Guard plate. Members applying for this plate would need to include a certificate confirming the member's active National Guard membership. Special license plates may only be issued for vehicles owned or co-owned by an active member of the California National Guard. This bill is currently on the Senate side of the Legislature.

AB 2085, authored by Assemblywoman Parra, would change the eligibility requirements under the *California Military Family Relief Fund*, requiring that a California National Guard member's salary be decreased by only 10% from their civilian salary (instead of 30%) in order to be eligible for a cash grant. AB 2085 will enable the Military Department to get cash grant payments out more quickly and to more California National Guard families who apply & need a grant from the Relief Fund. This bill is also working its way through the Senate side of the Legislature.

For more information on current legislature affecting Soldiers log on to: www.leginfo.ca.gov

Joint Force Effort Saves Local Newscaster

By 1st Lt Bryan L. Williams

The 129th Rescue Wing's mission is to save lives. During the Wing's most recent Search and Rescue, commonly referred to as "SAR", the members of the 129th Rescue Wing saved the life of a local celebrity. Dan Adams, a reporter for ABC News 10 (a major news co. in Sacramento and Northern California) was the latest life saved by the 129th Rescue Wing, with assistance from the Active Duty component of the Air Force.

In a total force effort, members of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing were joined by Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base's 79th Rescue Squadron near Tucson, Arizona, the United States Coast Guard and the Marines to provide critical assistance during the life-saving rescue mission aboard a civilian cruise ship in mid-April.

The rescue team rendered assistance to 54-year-old Dan Adams, who was suffering from acute appendicitis. The HC-130 refueling aircraft from Davis-Monthan



AFB enabled the 129th Rescue Wing's HH-60G helicopter to reach the cruise liner 400 miles off the coast of California. Pararescuemen, or "PJ's," from the Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Airfield, performed the rescue on the ocean liner 'M.S. Amsterdam,' rendering life-saving medical assistance to stabilize the individual for transport to Stanford Hospital.

The mission lasted more than nine hours, beginning around 3pm and ended at approximately 12 noon the following day. The patient was transported by the 129th Rescue Wing's HH-60G Moffett Federal Airfield, then by ambulance to Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, California. This rescue is credited to all members of the 129th Rescue Wing.

This mission marks the 552nd life saving rescue for the 129th Rescue Wing since their activation in 1955. Living up to their motto "These Things We Do, So That Others May Live".



Photos by Tech Sergeant Ray Aquino

COBRA GOLD 2006

By Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Crandall

For 16 days in May, Soldiers from the California Army National Guard participated in a computerized war game in which they simulated the duties of the headquarter elements for 3 Maneuver Brigades, an Aviation Brigade, an Artillery Brigade, and all the associated Service and Support elements. This daunting task was accomplished during the multi country, multi service training exercise "Cobra Gold 2006."

The annual exercise is hosted by the Royal Thailand Armed Forces and takes place in several cities throughout Thailand. Singapore, Japan, and Indonesia, along with all branches of the U.S. Military, are active participants. This year was special in that it marked the 25th anniversary of the event.

This year's scenario depicted a situation in which fictional neighboring countries have a border conflict which escalates into one country invading the other. A "Coalition of the Willing" was assembled to stabilize the situation and provide humanitarian support. The scenario was further complicated by a break off republic declaring independence and establishing borders leaving in the wake displaced persons (formerly known as refugees). Other scenarios such as riots, dem-



onstrations, "Bird Flu" outbreaks, and the turnover of operations to United Nations were used to exercise all staff sections. The exercise culminated in grand closing ceremonies and a gift exchange.

While spending 2 weeks in a tropical tourist destination conducting a computerized war game exercise might sound like fun, the 12 hour shifts, humidity and a 10 hour time

change served to remind us all, that we were still in the Army! The work proved exciting and rewarding; interoperability between the different countries was fortified.

Air Guard Weather Forecaster Goes Where Duty Calls

by Capt. Teresa McDonald

Many military members have completed their service with only the merest possibility that they may go to war. That has not been the case since September 11, 2001. Since that somber date, thousands of Guardsmen and women have answered "the call of duty." Staff Sgt. Patricia Ballou has answered her "call of duty" several times within her six years in the Air National Guard.

This courageous Airman is assigned to the 195th Weather Flight, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, as a combat weather forecaster. These weather forecasters are the "eyes forward," using real-time radar, satellite imagery, sensor readouts and visual observations to observe and forecast local or deployed conditions. Normally assigned to Army Airborne and Special Forces units, they are expected to know and keep up-to-date on weather climate in the isolated locations their unit deploys to. They ensure that mission-limit-

ing weather is anticipated and exploited in order to maintain safety of life and protection of resources.

SSgt. Ballou has deployed around the globe supporting various operations under austere conditions. Her most recent deployment was to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from September 2005 to May 2006. Her deployments include: Operation Enduring Freedom, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Operation Joint Guardian, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Operation Ulchi Focus Lens, South Korea

As she reflected on her recent experience in the Iraqi desert she recalled, "Once my boots were on the ground I felt an uneasiness, a constant permeating fear and panic." She pressed on and did her job to the best of her ability despite the daily mortar rounds pelting her bunker.

Major David C. Range, staff weath-

er officer (head of weather personnel in Iraq) said of Sergeant Ballou, she "is the hardest-charging SSgt in theater, Active or Guard! The Combat Weather Team Officer-In-Charge identified her as their top performer at Taji during my staff coordination visit there, and her dedication was also proven when she volunteered to extend through June 2006 to help us with our southern weather support at Kal-su."

SSgt Ballou has seen more than her fair share of action. In a wistful tone she stated, "I never want my children to have to see what I've seen." She said she is happy to be back with her family and they are thankful for her safe return. Staff Sgt. Patricia Ballou embodies the true meaning of "Citizen Soldier."



Aerial Port of the Year

By Capt. Julio Bermejo

The 146th Aerial Port Squadron has been honored as the Air National Guard's Aerial Port of the Year.

The 80-person unit, tasked with processing, loading and unloading cargo and personnel from military aircraft, sent aerial porters to locations on four continents in support of military and humanitarian missions during the award period, Oct. 1, 2004 - Sept. 30, 2005.

Two dozen members were mobilized and deployed to Travis Air Force Base, Calif. for 12 months as part of the Global War on Terror. From Travis, the aerial porters were further deployed to Iraq for 120 days. During their deployment to Baghdad International Airport, the aerial porters processed 10,000 short tons of cargo and 100,000 passengers.

As part of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, squadron personnel deployed to Austin International Airport and Ellington Field in Texas and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. They facilitated the movement of Army National Guardsmen and U.S. Department of Homeland Security personnel from California to the Gulf region.

While in Texas, the aerial porters facilitated air and ground movement of critical equipment and supplies, including 192 emergency portable homes.

Also during the 12-month period, the squadron deployed members to Kosovo, Italy, Spain, Germany and Antarctica's McMurdo Station.

Lt. Col. Michael N. Dugas, commander of the aerial port squadron during the award period, and now commander of the 146th Logistics Readiness Squadron, attributed the award to "teamwork and team spirit. Everyone is motivated about getting the job done."

Master Sgt. Louis Franco, the aerial port squadron's enlisted supervisor, called the award a "huge mile-

stone considering everything the unit's been through. It's a pretty prestigious award."

Two members of the National Guard headquarters staff, Nancy Oliver, Air Guard chief of transportation, and Master Sgt. Patricia Donato, resource supervisor for Air Guard aerial port units, are scheduled to travel from National Guard headquarters in Virginia to present the award.

The 146th Aerial Port Squadron is a subordinate unit of the 146th Airlift Wing, a 1,200-person unit of the California Air National Guard. The wing flies the C-130J and C-130E Hercules cargo planes, and performs missions ranging from: wartime delivery of personnel, equipment and supplies to humanitarian relief and aerial firefighting of wild land fires.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the wing has deployed members from numerous career fields to Southwest Asia, Europe and locations around the country in support of the nation's war on terror, earning numerous awards and decorations.



The 1106th AVCRAD: A Former XO's Perspective on a Unit Returned From Combat Duty

By COL John C. Giuffrida

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I and several members of the 1106th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot (AVCRAD), California Army National Guard, were in Washington D.C. to attend an aviation meeting at the National Guard Bureau (NGB). At the time, I was a Lt. Col. serving as the Executive Officer (XO) of the unit.

We were awaiting our meeting in the cafeteria of the Readiness Center in Falls Church, which sits on the west side of the Potomac looking down over Washington D.C. Along with dozens of other Soldiers and Airmen we were watching the television reports of the (first) plane that had struck the World Trade Center when we observed the second plane strike in real time.

What happened next I would describe as calm, ordered, military confusion. Personnel from all over the country, present for the (now cancelled) meeting were attempting to regroup and assess the situation. At that time, there were reports of other hijackings, bombings, etc., many of which turned out to be false, there was no clear idea of the totality of the situation. The order was given to return to home station to prepare for possible mobilization.

As we made our way to our vehicles, two of our group, Lt. Col Tom VaVerka and Lt. Col. (then Maj) Paul Bryant, reached the parking lot slightly ahead of the rest of the group. The two watched as American Flight 77 passed overhead on it's way to striking the Pentagon. When the rest of us arrived seconds later, we could already see the smoke rising from the impact. For all of us it was a truly surreal moment, but Lt. Col. Bryant had something else about which to think. His brother was the civilian building manager of the Pentagon, and Lt. Col Bryant would have to wait for the remainder of the day to eventually find out that his brother was uninjured.

Three days later, after a series of interesting events, we eventually arrived back in California, courtesy of our commandeered rental vehicle. While we were never in any personal danger, we certainly had a unique perspective on what would become a world-altering event. Five years later we can all see the tremendous global change initiated by the events of that day.

I have since left the California National Guard, but I recently had the opportunity to spend a little time at the 1106th AVCRAD.

The 1106th AVCRAD is one of four depot-level aviation maintenance units within the Army National Guard. The other three AVCRADS are based in Connecticut, Missouri, and Mississippi. The 1106th is based in Fresno, California. Originally designed to operate from home station fixed-bases or to fall in on Corpus Christi Army Depot in Texas, the AVCRADs have been deploying overseas in a "round-robin" fashion since the beginning of Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF). The 1106th AVCRAD deployed to Kuwait in 2005 to support OIF 04-06 and expanded the operation to provide support to OEF. In addition to the unit-level deployment, 1106th AVCRAD members have been detailed to augment a number of other deployments in hostile areas, including the establishment of an Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) Company based at Bagram AFB in Afghanistan.

So what has changed? PEOPLE. I will talk more about attitudes and perceptions shortly, but one interesting thing I noticed upon walking into the flight operations section was that several of the Soldiers employed there, all of whom had been M-day Soldiers during my tenure, had now been hired as full-time replacements. I mentioned this fact to Lt. Col. Mark Van Dyke, Commander of the AVCRAD's Flight Activity. Lt. Col. Van Dyke deployed to both Kuwait and Iraq with the 1106th (also in Washington with us on September 11th). According to Lt. Col. Van Dyke, "Combat deployments bring out the best and worst of people, and our deployment was no different. The Soldiers you now see hired as full-timers were M-Day personnel that rose to the occasion and performed superbly overseas".

EQUIPMENT. Another thing that I noticed immediately was the influx of new equipment. Due to its nature as a depot-level maintenance organization, the AVCRAD has always had a great deal of heavy machinery, but there are now many new additions to the inventory. Modern, computerized machining and lathing tools have replaced 1960's vintage machinery in the metal shop. The same is true for other shops within the 1106th. As Training NCO Master Sgt. Armando Romo told me, "equipment such as

our new Electro-Optic Test Facility (EOTF) is making the AVCRAD's job much easier and relevant". The EOTF is an extremely modern testing facility for Army electro-optics and weapon systems such as those used on the AH-64D Apache helicopter. It can be mounted to a five-ton truck and transported virtually anywhere on the battlefield.

PROCEDURES. Every new conflict brings with it new challenges and OIF/OEF has been no exception. The AVCRAD has had to develop new operating procedures, new methods of providing support. Upon deploying to Kuwait, it became apparent to the AVCRAD that there was a breakdown in the supply chain between the AVCRAD and its "customers", those aviation units deployed in forward areas. Requirements for parts and support were not being met because of antiquated methods of requisitioning and shipping. The 1106th formed a supply support activity (SSA) and deployed it forward into Iraq. The SSA decreased dramatically the parts turn-around time to end users. According to Sgt. 1st. Class Ernie Serrato, "We developed a bar code system, much like FEDEX or UPS that allowed us to actually track parts and components, rather than just hoping they came out the other end". New procedures such as these, developed in the



PHOTO: SGT WILLIAM SMITH

combat theater, have been brought home and are now evident everywhere as the AVCRAD goes about its daily business. Chief Warrant Officer John Hook, who helped form an AVIM Company and later deployed with it to Afghanistan says, "We had to invent ways to do things every day, but before long, to get things done, we were the ones to come to...when the (10th Mountain Division) Aviation Brigade Commander needed a problem solved he came to us first".

Finally, and most importantly, ATTITUDE. The Army's operational tempo and frequency of deployments has been very hard on all the Reserve components of our military, and that is true for the AVCRAD as well. Collectively, we have some huge challenges in front of us in terms of retention and sustainability, and it would be naïve to suggest otherwise. But despite the negative aspects of being deployed, what I perceived throughout the unit was a sense of pride and accomplishment. Accomplishment as in "mission accomplishment," a job well done. Pride in having answered a call to duty. As AVCRAD Commander Lt. Col. David Gereski told me, "The Soldiers of the AVCRAD now realize vividly just how important and relevant their job is...the components and services the AVCRAD provides go directly to the Soldier in the combat zone. It is a vital mission".

There is a noticeable change in the manner in which the Soldiers of the California AVCRAD carry themselves. They deployed to a combat zone and handled their responsibilities as well or better than any other unit, active or reserve, could have –and they know it.

Col. John C. Giuffrida USAR is assigned to the joint staff of Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC) based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii/Camp Smith in Honolulu



Governor VTC

KABUL, Afghanistan – Soldiers deployed here from the California Army National Guard's 315th Engineer Company (Security Forces) in Oxnard, share a video teleconference with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in the early morning hours June 15 to celebrate the U.S. Army's 231st birthday. The Soldiers, deployed from units throughout California, provide force protection for the residents of Camp Eggers here. The governor thanked the Soldiers for their service and said they are the "true action heroes."



School Supplies

Spc. Ranbir Kaur, a Soldier of the 349th Quartermaster Battalion in Vallejo, hands out backpacks full of school supplies at the Afghan Street Children and New Approach School-Shernow Center, June 9. A recent fire at the trade school destroyed nearly all the students' supplies. Kaur, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is serving a one-year tour with Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan as a member of the force protection company providing security for Camp Eggers in Kabul Province.



Proud to be an American

Recently one of the Soldiers assigned to the 756th received his United States Citizenship. SPC Edgar Estrada-Perez, a unit supply clerk, is one of the 14 unit members that have applied and completed the process to become a United States Citizen in Iraq.

Getting his citizenship while deployed made the event very special for Estrada-Perez. "The ceremony was great, especially being in Iraq. How many people can say that they got their citizenship in Iraq, serving their country?" Estrada-Perez asked with a broad smile. He only wishes his mom and his best friend were able to attend and see him take the oath.

Major Bond, SPC Estrada-Perez's Company Commander had this to say, "SPC Estrada represents the diversity of the United States, specifically California and the US Army. The deployment will be twelve months, however, becoming a citizen will last a lifetime."



COL Herman

While the 40th Engineer Brigade was preparing for Deployment at Fort Bliss, Texas, word came from overseas that Col. Michael Herman, was selected by the Commanding General, Maj. Gen. William McCoy, to be his Deputy Commander of the Gulf Region Division, US Army Corps of Engineers. Col. Herman will oversee the massive \$18 billion infrastructure reconstruction effort throughout the country of Iraq.



CST Open House

The 9th Civil Support Team hosted an open house to brief their capabilities and demonstrate chemical/biological sampling techniques in lab settings and rotary wing operations. They also discussed large scale exercises involving multiple counties and agencies. It was a great success, with community leaders including Governor Schwarzenegger stopping by.



In the Park

670th Military Police (MP) Company conducts riot control training during their annual two week training period at Camp Roberts. The 670th MP Co. has been deployed twice since 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



Veteran's Memorial Park Dedication Roseville California

Members of the 115th Regional Support Group proudly participated along side Roseville and Placer County residents on 20 May 2006 at Armed Forces Day, dedicating a Veterans Memorial Park in memory of all the veterans who have served in defense of our country. Brig. Gen. Louis J.

Antonetti, California Army National Guard, representatives of the American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW), and distinguished community leader members from all services spoke at the dedication. The 115th Regional Support Group provided color guard and static displays.





CSMR Training

Military personnel of the 2nd of the 185th Support Brigade of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR), conducted Tactical Combat Causality Care (TCCC) training for Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division (M) Headquarters Unit. Instruction was focused on wound field dressing to include tourniquet application. CASMR assists the California National Guard in its Homeland Defense mission by assisting in training and mobilization of Soldiers and Airmen. The CSMR is a volunteer operational force upon which the California National Guard depends. Its members are subject to be called to state active duty by the Governor of the State of California.

Operation Gratitude

First Lady Maria Shriver fills a care package at Operation Gratitude, part of Military Appreciation month at the California National Guard Armory in Van Nuys.



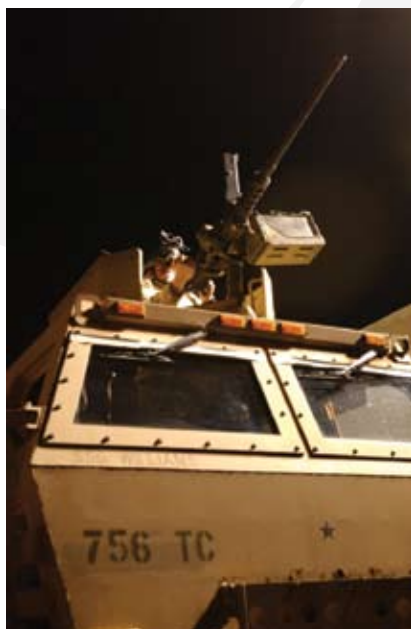
Sling Load Training

Two UH-60 Blackhawks conduct sling load training at Red Beach, Camp Pendleton, during the 1-140th Aviation drill June 10th. The 1-140th AVN BN, based out of Los Alamitos and returned this past November from a deployment to Tikrit, Iraq in support of OIF III.



756th Trans

Soldiers from the 756th Transportation Company are contributing to the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The high operational multifunctional unit provides Combat Logistic Patrols, Gun Truck Operations, WARLOCK IED and Fire Suppression Teams based out of Camp Taji, Iraq. The unit provides support to the 4th Infantry Division in the Baghdad Multi-national Division sector.



Hospital Visits

Spec. Christina Torres hands out a stuffed animal during a visit to the Malalai Hospital on June 18. Malalai has the only free maternity clinic in the Afghan capital and averages 70 births a day. Torres, permanently assigned to the 1112th Quartermaster Company in Van Nuys, Calif., is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The York, Penn., native is serving a one-year tour with Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan as a member of the force protection company providing security for Camp Eggers in Kabul Province.

HHC/1-185th Infantry Deploy to Iraq

A going away ceremony for California Army National Guard Soldiers from HHC/1-185 Infantry of the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was held June 26. Approximately 160 Soldiers from throughout California are deploying to Iraq for a one-year tour. They will be supporting the 16th Military Police Brigade from Ft Bragg NC by providing convoy security throughout Iraq.

Stories and images submitted by

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hitchens
Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers
SSG Ralph Pasillas
Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
1LT Matt Jackson
Cpt. Juan Mora
Lt. Col. Robert Spano

Remembering the Fallen

Sergeant First Class Isaac Lawson was killed on 5 June 2006 in Baghdad Iraq. He died as a result of injuries received when his vehicle struck an IED just north of New Baghdad.

Sergeant First Class Lawson enlisted in the United States Army on 15 March 1990 and served until 24 February 2001 for a net active service 10 years 2 months and 24 days. During this period Sergeant First Class Lawson was an Armor Crewman. He was an excellent Soldier as evidenced by numerous awards and commendations. After completion of his active duty and taking a civilian break he joined the California Army National Guard on 9 November 2002. Sergeant First Class Lawson deployed with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 49th Military Brigade to Iraq on 16 July 2005 to further serve his country. As a member of the 49th Military Police Brigade Sergeant First Class Lawson impressed others with his professionalism and experience.



Remembering Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Lawson *By Capt. Jonathan Masaki Shiroma*

He's being remembered as a strong Soldier, a family man and an all-around good guy. He is Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Shawn Lawson of Elk Grove, CA, the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the 49th Military Police Brigade's Police Partnership Program (P3) in Iraq. Sadly, Lawson was killed on June 5, 2006 following a roadside bombing just north of Baghdad. His death marked the first California fatality within the brigade.

"Isaac was a good friend of mine," said Col. Rod Barham, Commander of the 49th, "I met him when he first joined us at Fort Hood. I will never forget his smile and his calm demeanor. He was just a beautiful person. I will miss him, I miss him everyday," he said.

"He was my go to guy," said Col. Donald Currier, commander of the brigade's P3 task force. "He was probably the most professional Soldier I have had the honor of serving with. He always took time to coach and mentor his subordinates. He was admired by everyone in his unit."

"He always took care of people, he never got angry it didn't seem," said Col. Diana Bodner, 49th MP Brigade deputy commander. "You

could always count on him, he was a great guy who was always upbeat and could put a smile on your face."

"Soldiers looked up to him with respect and honor," said Command Sgt. Major Andres Roman. "I will always remember him for being a great man and a great Soldier."

"Sgt. 1st Class Lawson was a great friend, a great NCO and a spiritual man," said Sgt. Maj. Leona Wheeler. "He will be well missed by the

49th Military Police Brigade. He always said Sgt. Maj. "too easy" and he meant it and he got the job done."

"He was probably one of the most professional NCOs that I had the pleasure to work with," said Lt. Col. Judy Mavroleon, "one thing that I can say about Sgt. Lawson is that he was a light and we are really going to miss him. Sgt. Lawson will also be a hero in my book."

Leaders within the 49th aren't the only ones who admired and respected Lawson. Many of the troops within the NCO CORPS also have fond memories of Isaac."

"He was always an approachable sergeant that was a really good guy," said Staff Sgt. Rory Nichols. "You never had to worry about him being in a bad mood. He was just a great guy across the board."

"I wish we could bring him back to see his smile and to listen to all of his jokes," said Sgt. Deborah Patrick. "It was an honor just to know him, he was a blessing in my life and I will never forget him."

"He would make it a point to hunt me down and take me to the gospel chapel service," said Sgt. Matthew McGee. "We would walk back to our trailers and we would talk about his family and how much he loved them. I also remember that he was very disciplined and that definitely set a good example since he was an E-7."

"Isaac was a good inspiration in my life," said Sgt. Cecil Hamilton. "He was a good friend and a good leader and someone that I looked up to."



49th Military Police

The 49th Military Police (MP) Brigade (BDE) mobilized 16 May 2005 and arrived in Iraq on 11 October 2005. The mission of the brigade is to train Iraqi Police throughout the country. The goal is to have 135-thousand Iraqi Police in place by the year 2007. Currently, the 49th has trained close to 100,000 Iraqis

and is well on its way to accomplish its goal. While the BDE's mission first began just in Baghdad, in January, 2006, the mission expanded to 19 provinces throughout Iraq. The 49th's HHC is made up of more than 100 California Army National Guard Soldiers. The BDE has three subordinate battalions

(BN), 2 active duty (519th MP BN, Fort Polk, LA and the 709th MP Battalion, Hanau Germany) and one Army National Guard battalion (372nd MP BN based in Washington DC). The BDE has a total of more than 3,000 Soldiers. Another vital part of the BDE is the International Police Liaison Officer

CORPS which is made up of civilian police officers from across the nation. The final group that make up the BDE is the interpreters that help communicate between Iraqis and the Coalition.



2-185th Armor Battalion On Duty In Iraq

By Capt. Jonathan Shiroma



Back in California, a normal duty day for a Soldier lasts about eight hours. Here in Iraq, the normal duty day for a Soldier with the California Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 2-185th Armor based in El Centro, CA, lasts anywhere between 12-15 hours.

"I think we are doing a good job here," said Sgt. Kenneth Sunada of Rialto, CA who, in civilian life, works for the United Parcel Service as a manager in East Los Angeles. "When we first got here in January, it was quite a transition for us but I believe we (the 140-plus Soldiers within the 2-185th) work well with one another despite the long hours and weather conditions," adds Sunada.

What a transition it has been for the 2-185th. First of all, the troops had to adjust to the cool winter temperatures and the rainy and muddy conditions that many were not expecting in Iraq when they arrived in January, 2006. Then, as it began to heat up, they had to acclimate to the high temperatures that come with the summer, as the mercury climbed into the triple digits.

"I have to say that I prefer the hot conditions over all the mud," said Sunada.

"It's hotter than the Philippines," laughs Sgt. Arthur Abella who is of Filipino ancestry. "The temperatures sure make me miss my home city of Long Beach, CA."

"During these hot summer months, it makes me miss the cool Delta breeze we have in the Sacramento area," says Spec. John Courtney, "the air here is hot and full of dirt."

Second, these Soldiers had to put their military occupational skills as tankers on hold and come to Iraq as Military Police due to the needs of the Army.

"It has been a learning process

for us," said Spec. Scott Lynde of Bakersfield, CA, a college student on the way to becoming a school teacher in civilian life. "You learn, how to make the best of the situation and at the end of the day, we know we are getting the job done," Lynde adds.

While on the job, these California Soldiers from all over the Golden State deal with Iraqis on a daily basis. This interaction has given the troops an awareness of the culture

within this country and its people.

"This has helped me understand what I have read about the culture in the Middle East," said Courtney, "I am still learning more about the people, about Islam, and trying to dispel what is a myth and what is the truth," he said.

The Soldiers of the 2-185th work out of a forward operating base (FOB) just outside of Baghdad and for the most part, their mission does not allow for getting outside of the FOB like other military police units. While some of these guard Soldiers admit it gets monotonous, what helps them make it through the day is knowing they have the support of the American public.

"The support for the Soldiers is important," said Sunada, "the fact that we have received so many care packages from our loved ones and from people we don't know means a lot to us. We have to remember what it was like for those who served in Vietnam. Here, we know that back home in U.S., we have the support of the American public."

The 2-185th still has approximately six months to go before they head home. This may seem like a lifetime considering the conditions, however, many of these Soldiers remain upbeat despite the long hours, the hot sun and being away from their families.

"We are able to eat what we want (at the Dining facilities) and the environment is not as bad as we expected," claims Sunada.



How Caregivers Can Prepare Children For War

One day, Andrew, my 10 year old son, asked me if I will ever be required to carry a machine gun into combat. I'm assuming this issue was sparked in his mind as we often pray at the dinner table for protection for our service members. When I told him about my role in the military and that there has never been a psychologist harmed in war, he found some comfort

When he asked me the question, I began to think in earnest about the fact that children of service members have concerns about their caregivers well before any formal indications of impending deployment. Then, I thought that many service members do not serve in military jobs that allow them to say what I can to comfort some of my children's fears. The bottom line truth is that preparing a child for war is a sobering reality that adults do not even like to contemplate. The fact that war brings injury and death is inescapable. According to a survey the Army conducted of more than 2,064 Soldiers in Iraq, 93 to 96% reported witnessing incoming mortar, rocket, or artillery fire. Forty-seven to 57% reported having a team member become a casualty of war. Indeed, some units of our own California National Guard have 75% of their troops who have seen coalition, civilian, or enemy wounded or dead in Iraq, with many seeing all categories. Even though some children may be too young to understand exactly what this means, all can sense the emotional tone of this reality in their caregivers. When a primary caregiver (parent, grandparent, custodial guardian) goes off to war, the very heart of our children's sense of physical, emotional, and psychological security is rationally challenged.

The task, though sobering, can be accomplished when caregivers work ongoing to establish healthy family functioning and work together with a strong support network to develop a proactive age appropriate response. The point of this article is to start this profoundly important preparation for combat now.

The first step and likely most fundamental is to focus on optimizing your family functioning and support network. Today, the structure of families varies (e.g. two parent, single parent, custodial parent(s), multiple families in the same home, etc.); however, the signs of healthy family functioning are the same. These signs include the ability to adapt to natural life developments (child birth, moving, divorce, death of family members, marriage), the ability to be flexible in schedule and expectation changes of day-to-day living, a strong sense of cohesion balanced with the ability to respect individual feelings and thoughts, good communication, healthy understanding of family roles, team care-giving, and community involvement. Families that close themselves off as a result of passivity in seeking out community interaction or actively avoiding community interaction are much more likely to struggle than families who are open and seek out community involvement. Open families who have friends that provide both practical help (child care, mowing the lawn, etc.) and emotional support will have more resources for dealing with stresses. More resources mean more ability to cope. If your family appears to be having any issues in these areas, contact the Office of the State Psychologist at (916)240-3477 or

(916)854-3019. We will make certain you have a trained professional to assist you.

The second step is to understand your child's level of brain development. Brain development directly impacts the child's ability to understand the issues of life going on around and impacting him/her. The ability of a child to understand and reflect the emotional tone of their caregivers starts in the earliest stages of infancy. This is the reason that children too young to understand war and death appear to "know" what is going on when a Soldier deploys. The ability of children to understand the implications of war and "miss" the presence of a caregiver obviously grows with age. You can judge whether or not your child is at a point to understand as a result of the questions he/she asks you about being in the military. My-ArmyLifetoo.com has a download center on the left side of the web page that leads to the link "managing deployment." This leads to a link labeled "children and deployment" containing booklets to help you prepare children between three to 15 years of age.

A continuous process of responding effectively to your child's questions is vital. When you talk to your children, emphasize the factors that increase your own sense of safety. I heard one Soldier tell me that she tells her children, "I have the biggest and the best equipment." I have heard other Soldiers emphasize the confidence in their leaders, other unit members' skills, and their own skills. If appropriate given the deployment assignment and/or the job to be performed, emphasize the safety of the area or the job you have. Be prepared

to deal with the possibility that your child will want to know if you will die. You start preparation of answering this difficult question initially through reviewing the age appropriate information at <http://www.hospicenet.org/html/understand.html>. Ensure that you do not provide more information about the dangers than those about which your child already knows. Remember, your child truly does not have any control over these, so there isn't any point to exposing them to issues that they can not control or feel you can not control. There also isn't any point to exposing children to the daily harrowing news stories because they can't control what is happening in those either. Most of all, the caregivers need to have a discussion about how to respond to these questions before they are asked.

Please feel free to call me about any mental health related questions you may have through e-mail at philip.holcombe@us.army.mil.



Operation Military Kids

When National Guard, Army Reserve and other military parents living in civilian communities are mobilized, their children suddenly become different. Now they are "military kids" but they still "look the same" to teachers, friends and the rest of the community. Their lives are turned upside down!

Many of their usual support systems may no longer be adequate. Extensive media coverage of ongoing military operations creates daily anxiety. These "new" military kids need to connect with other youth in similar situations. They

seek friends and adults who can empathize and can help them cope with their new world.

State and County Cooperative Extension staff, community agencies, schools, and 4-H Club youth are reaching out to military youth ... **Before, During and After** their parents are deployed. This outreach effort is called **Operation: Military Kids**

Operation: Military Kids

Creates community support network for military youth "in our own backyard" when Soldier parents are deployed.

Delivers recreation, social and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.

Supports military kids coping with the stress of knowing their deployed parents may be in harm's way.

Collaborates with schools to ensure that staff are attuned to

the unique needs of military students.

Educates the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on Soldiers, families, kids and the community as a whole.

Becomes a part of the ongoing 4-H Program in the locations where there are military families.

For more information log on to: <http://www.usda-army-ydp.org/omk/index.htm> or call Ready Families at 1-800-449-9662

Oakland D.A.R.E. Day

By Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Barker

Success is usually measured by the amount of wealth accrued, the number of wins in a season or the number of awards received. For members of the California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program, things are not as quantifiable.

How do you measure the success of a program where you may never see the beneficiaries of your as-

sistance? For the answer, you need only ask the dedicated Soldiers and Airmen who conduct the DDR missions. They will tell you they measure success by the number of letters they receive thanking them for coming to a particular school or community; by the number of smiles they see on the faces of the youth whose lives they touch if only for a brief moment.

At a recent mission in Oakland, members of DDR had the opportunity to address one of their largest audiences during the 11th Annual D.A.R.E. Day celebration at McAfee Coliseum.

Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jameal Chatmon was given the daunting task of coordinating the mission. From the initial meeting with Adam Clar, account manager for the Oakland A's to the bottom of the 17th inning of a marathon baseball game, Chatmon was the driving force behind the mission. She managed to gather eight California National Guard members to support the mission by providing and manning a display booth and a HMMWV.

According to Army Sgt. 1st Class John Holihan, operations NCO for DDR, the goal of spreading the DDR message was definitely accomplished. "I felt the audience left with a positive message and information about drugs and the effects they have on our bodies." Holihan, a 2 ½ year veteran of DDR, says that although he is not

usually a field operative, he tries to get out of the office and support missions at least 8 times a year, depending on the operations tempo at the time. He said the best part of the Oakland mission was not only passing on the DDR message to the youth, but the overwhelming feeling of support for the military from the crowd.

"It made me feel good that we were well received in the bay area. People came up to us and said, 'Thank you for serving in the military.'" Another member of the DDR team, Sgt. David Pepper agreed. "It made me proud to see that the crowd was cheering for the troops as they passed by."

As for a measurement of success, Pepper said, "The ultimate goal was to interact with kids and get a positive message out to them about the dangers of drugs. If I see one of those children again and they are still looking healthy, then the mission was a success." As of this June 2006, DDR has conducted 52 missions and attended 354 events.



Photo by Tsgt. Jennifer Larson

Read to Your Kids

By Tech Sgt. Matt Summers

Army Sgt. Ana Huerta, a native of Cressey, Calif., and 1995 graduate of Livingston High School, reads "Sister Bear Learns to Share," while making a videotape for her children June 23. Huerta, a California National Guard Soldier assigned to the 315th Engineer Company in Oxnard, is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is serving a one-year tour with the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan as a member of the force protection company providing security for Camp Eggers in Kabul Province. The "Read to Your Kids" program at Camp Eggers provides children's books and mailers so that parents can send the book and video home and allow their children to follow along. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers)

Editors Note: Soldiers stationed at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan have a unique opportunity to stay connected with their children. The 'Read to Your Kids' program was

established in late 2004. The program affords Soldiers the opportunity to send a personalized video tape in which they read a story to their child. The child receives the

videotape and a copy of the story read. Thousands of Soldiers have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



Benefits & News

Up to \$3 Million in Financial Assistance Established for California National Guard Families

Los Angeles — A new Financial Assistance Fund of up to \$3 million is now available to members of the California National Guard and their families to address unmet needs due to service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The grant was awarded by donors of the Los Angeles-based California Community Foundation. “Our more than 1,300 donors have a variety of issues about which they are passionate ” said foundation spokeswoman Misty de Lamare. “The foundation’s role is to help them support the causes they care about most.”

An initial \$250,000 will be made available to the newly established California National Guard Financial Assistance Fund (Financial Assistance Fund) to increase awareness of Guard financial aid programs and for direct grants to the approximately 21,000 California National Guard personnel who are (or have been) on active duty in Afghanistan or Iraq. An additional \$2.75 million may be available over the next seven months.

When a Guard member is called into active duty his or her family may incur a significant loss of income and unanticipated expenses. An existing California Military Family Relief Fund (Family Relief Fund) provides up to \$2,000 to qualifying National Guard families helping them pay mounting medical bills housing costs and other unmet needs. The new Financial Assistance Fund to be administered by the State of California Military Department will address needs that exceed the \$2,000 limitation of the Family Relief Fund.

The \$250,000 grant will be used in part to increase outreach to families at each California National Guard unit and facility. Information about the two financial assistance programs will be made available as well as a third program the Chaplain’s Fund which provides one-time emergency aid of up to \$600.00. According to a January 30 2006 Los Angeles Times article only 18 applications for assistance under the Family Relief Fund had been received at that time which underscores the need for outreach to the target population.

Established in 1915 the California Community Foundation is one of the largest and most active philanthropic organizations in Southern California with assets of more than \$800 million. In partnership with its donors the foundation supports nonprofit organizations with funds for health care affordable housing childhood education community arts and other areas of need. To learn more visit the California Community Foundation on its Web site at www.calfund.org.

TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

The TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy, administered by Express Scripts, Inc., is a cost effective and convenient way for beneficiaries to get prescription medications. Beneficiaries may save as much as 66 percent of the cost for maintenance medications for such conditions as high blood pressure, asthma and diabetes. Beneficiaries receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications for the same cost as a 30-day supply at a retail pharmacy. Beneficiaries may refill their prescriptions by telephone, mail or on-line and prescriptions are delivered directly to their home. For more information about TRICARE’s mail order pharmacy, please visit the TRICARE Website at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop_order.cfm. Beneficiaries may enroll in the mail-order service at <http://www.express-scripts.com/>.

Army Blue Service Uniform

Army announced service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform. Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011. A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform (winter and summer versions) and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of Soldier acceptance, and reducing the variety of combat uniforms with which they must deal.

In simplicity, the blue Army Service Uniform eliminates the need for numerous sets of green Class A uniforms, service blue uniforms and, for some, Army white mess uniforms (and tunics, for women). Streamlining various service uniforms into one Army Service Uniform reduces the burden on Soldiers in the same manner that the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) did for the field utility uniform.

\$1,000 Bonus Expanded to Retirees

The Army has expanded to retired Soldiers eligibility for the \$1,000 recruiting referral bonus. This newest recruiting incentive pays retired Soldiers a \$1,000 lump sum for referring applicants who enlist, complete basic training, and graduate individual advanced training. Certain rules apply. The referral may not be an immediate family member and the Retired Soldier referring may not be serving in a recruiting or retention assignment or as a Junior ROTC instructor. For more information about this pilot incentive program, retirees should call 1-800-223-3735 extension 6-0473, visit <http://www.usarec.army.mil/smart> or contact their local Retiree Services Office. For referrals to the Army National Guard referring retirees should call 1-800-GOGUARD (1-800-464-8273) or go to <http://www.1800goguard.com/esar>.

SGLI Premium Increases

The new SGLI premium rate will increase the monthly premium rate for a member with maximum coverage of \$400,000 from \$27.00 to \$29.00. This premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage (TSGLI), which is mandatory and added to any premium rate automatically. In addition the Family SGLI will be reduced. Servicemembers will see a change in the deduction from their pay for the first time in July 2006.

VA Data Compromise

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that some active-duty Sailors, National Guard, and Reserve personnel may be affected by the theft in May of military personnel data. Several resources are available for people to go to for more information. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a special Website (<http://www.firstgov.gov>) and a toll-free telephone number (800-FED-INFO or 800-333-4636) that feature up-to-date news and information on the data compromise. The site offers tips on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and whom to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring using his or her personal information.

Benefits & News

Vote While Overseas

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act covers members of the U.S. uniformed services and U.S. merchant marine, their family members, and other U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. Exercising your right to vote while living overseas can take as little as 10 minutes. U.S. citizens can register to vote and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (SF76), which has been redesigned for 2006 to convey more information to election officials while providing greater security for voters' personal information. The form is available from unit and installation voting assistance officers. It also is available electronically on the USAREUR/1PERSCOM website at <http://www.1perscom.army.mil/default.asp?strLink=C25>.

Army Safety Program

The Chief of Staff of the Army has mandated several initiatives aimed at enabling commanders in the field to manage risk as they accomplish the demanding missions of fighting a Global War on Terrorism while transforming. The following website provides information to help develop a safety program: <https://crc.army.mil/commanderscorner/>. It can also be found on the front page of the Combat Readiness Center's website at <https://crc.army.mil/home/>.

Committee Votes to End 'Ten-year Rule'

The Senate Armed Services Committee has voted to end the "10-year rule" used by the government for more than two decades to screen court orders seeking automatic payment of retired pay to former military spouses. The change is one of three adjustments to the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) in the Senate's version of the 2007 defense authorization bill (S 2766). If approved by the full Congress, the changes would be the first made to the military ex-spouse law in 14 years. For more information, read the article at <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,98524,00.html>.

Army begins CAC logon for computers

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 10, 2006) –The Army began implementing CAC Cryptographic Logon last month and will soon require a common access card and personal identification number, or PIN, to log onto the Army's unclassified network.

By March, about 10,000 Army users, including most Pentagon staffers, are expected to be logging onto their computer network by scanning their card. By summer, implementation should be Armywide, G6 officials said.

"Protecting identity is critical as the Army moves forward to deliver a joint net-centric, information enterprise," said Lt. Gen. Boutelle, Chief Information Officer/G6.

"One of the greatest vulnerabilities of our networks is posed by weak user names and passwords," Boutelle said. "Spyware or keystroke tracking software can steal your username and password, and even your PIN. It cannot steal your CAC. The Army's goal is to eliminate the use of username and password."

Before the CAC Logon is implemented across the Army, workshops will be offered, G6 officials said.

A workshop for major command and region information management officers is scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The same material will be offered on both days, a G6 official said, adding that region implementation plans will also be discussed.

CAC logon allows users to be authenticated with something they know — their PIN, and something they have — a CAC, officials said. CAC is a type of smart card with electronic information about an owner and digital

New Act Gives Tax Help

An act signed into law May 29 by President Bush solves a conflict in the tax code by allowing servicemembers who serve in a combat zone to still contribute to their individual retirement accounts. The Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow servicemembers to include tax-exempt combat zone pay in determining the allowable income tax deduction for contributions to retirement savings plans. The Internal Revenue Service will soon be issuing more guidance for servicemembers who qualify under the Heroes Act. In the meantime, questions can be directed to military legal offices.

Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006

Help for disabled servicemembers and veterans with their housing and other benefit needs was signed into law by President Bush. One provision of the law authorizes VA to give grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$14,000 to assist with housing adaptations at a family member's home in which a severely disabled servicemember is temporarily residing. Another provision will give disabled servicemembers up to two years from their separation date to apply for premium-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage. To learn more about this act, read the full article at Military.com. <http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,101459,00.html>

Discounts

Did you know that hundreds of companies give military discounts? Although many companies do not advertise the discounts it is always worthwhile to ask. For a list of over 700 companies that chose to thank military members for their service by providing discounts go to: <http://benefits.military.com/misc/DC/DealAllCategories.jsp>

public key infrastructure, or PKI certificates that insure identity.

Part of the CIO/G6 mission is to protect and defend the Army systems, networks and information, officials said. Key to that mission is reducing vulnerability of the unclassified network through security measures such as CCL, they said.

CCL also meets the directives on identity protection published by the Army vice chief of staff in 2005 and the president's 2004 Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12.

Recently, DoD's Joint Task Force Global Network Operations started accelerating PKI implementation throughout DoD.

In the near future, the Army's intranet Army Knowledge Online will also require CAC logon, officials said. They said the Army is currently testing and vetting the capability to use CAC logon outside Army networks.

For more information, visit the CAC PKI website: <https://iacacpki.army.mil>. Since it is a secure site, you must logon with your AKO username and password or with your CAC.



www.fresno.ang.af.mil

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Enlisted Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Mendez Paulo C.
Sandoval David S.

Senior Master Sergeant

Romero Richard

Master Sergeant

Crippen Ranae D.

Fox Raymond C.
Krebs Nathan A.

Senior Airman

Adams Andrew R.
Alejandre Lorena
Babbitt Chance A.
Hutchason Aarons
Ledoux Wayne E.
Maldonado Alicia C.
Martinez Jonathan P.
Reyes Miguel P.

Staff Sergeant

Alcala Delfina

Alexander Nicholas L.
Boozer Russell J.
Cummings Travis L.
Long Logan P.
Lopez Tiffany L.
Millson William A.
Perez Anthony M.
Rangel Frank J.
Ranger Nicholas M.
Sivertson James B.
Smith Ryan L.
Solorio Jose G.
Vallente Caesari M.
Weese Troy D.

Tech Sergeant

Ferguson Darryl
Foster Diana R.
Gillum Robert D.
Greer Charles R.
Jones Willie L.
Modlin Julie D.
Rios Tamu K.
Ruiz Jr. Richard
Trujillo Monica L.
Waites Reginald

Airman 1st Class

Orozco Michelle M.

Officer Promotions

Colonel

Beevers Matthew Patrick
Grimm Eric Butler
Snow William Howard
Willand Bernd

Lieutenant Colonel

Callender Merri Beth
Hanley William Michael
Levy Dirk Alexander
Lewis Todd Wayne
Miller Christopher Leonard
Whittier Allen Edward

Captain

Gallegosbarrera Leonel
Gygax Lucion Paul
Seale Katrina Lynn
Smith Keegan Thayer

1st Lieutenant

Dawson Brent Nicholas
Kolodziej Jason Mark

Warrant Officer 2

Bramwell David Dean

Enlisted Promotions

Master Sergeant

Almryde Paul Arvid
Garza Daniel
Harris Darryl Terrenzo

Sergeant First Class

Harrisscott Alice
Martens James Shannon

Staff Sergeant

Bachelor Michael James
Clarke Rachel Elizabeth
Cruz Michael Alan
Fonseca Susan Leah
Hernandez Maria Teresa
Lagasca Bernie Hidalgo Iii
Lascuna Paulino Alonzo Jr

Lee Benjamin Timothy
Madrigal Lissette
Mbanugo Jody Lynn
Mccain James Jefferson
Ortiz Ruben
Pendleton Gary Dean Jr
Stanisci Nicholas Fredrick
Valenzuela Kinny John Jr

Sergeant

Avila Michael Alan
Carroll Lloyd Edward Ii
Fortune Chris Urbana
Gan Ronald Amar
Halpin Michelle Marie
Houser Kelsey Marie
James Andrew Joseph
Mccarty Brandon Matthew
Rendon Janneth
Saravia Giovannie Augusto
Treadwell Delaurence
Truong Dung Minh
Villegas Fernando Velasquez
Zavala Bach Xitlali

Specialist

Albattat Muntathir Taha
Alcantarsalcido Luis Antoni
Alfaro Veronica Marie
Bailey Seth Aaron
Barhorst Stephene Marie
Barrera Sarahy
Beck Dustin Charles
Castillo Basilisa Vargas
Cisneros Miguel Moreno
Cisneros Ricardo Cezar
Cooprider Michael John
Esquivel Joshua Isah
Garcia Jose Manuel
Garcia William Peter
Gauley David Alan
Guyse Joshua Rain
Hartman Garrett Wesley

Hernandezvaldez Jose Guadal
Hodges Jason Frederick
Jones Ronnie Lee
Jones Travon Terrell
Kakhya Muhamad Hesham
Ledesma Roberto Andres
Lowry Briston Keith
Manning Star
Martinezhernandez Jorge A
Masangkay Roy Moscoso
Maxwell Alexander Simon
Meek Christopher Roy
Mendezcortez Ana Lidia
Murrell Tommy Lee Jr
Nagle Robert Thomas
Owens Jennifer Marie
Ramirez Orozco Edgar Eduard
Rosales Bony Atzel
Silva Eric Thomas
Smith Andrew Lee Jr
Smith Gregory Allen Jr
Smith Jared Michel
Telles Joseph David
Torp Stephanie Kang
Vanderpool Andrew Clinton
Wall Joseph Patrick
Warner Matthew Bryant
Yang Cher
Zentner Aaron Valentine

Private First Class

Andalon Michael
Arada Archie Pedroche
Araica Byron Ismael
Bowler Edward James

Brasil Raquel Egidia
Contreras Lidia Grisel
Ellyson Jeffrey Allen
Evans Michael Edward Jr
Foxworthy Donald Lee Jr
Gabriel Rosalyn Monique
Gidcumb Rebecca Louise
Gironurbano Veronica
Healy Liam Patrick
Jackson Dameon Lamonte
Jones Roderick Mitchell
Kriger Daniel Benjamin
Lugo Daniel Peralta
Mccloskey Star
Mcdaniel Kevin Andrew
Metcalf Richard Keith Jr
Morales Jorge Enrique Jr
Oaks William Larry
Pittman Cedric
Plamondon Rebecca Ann
Ramirez Sergio
Reyes Max Alexander
Richardson Dax Robert
Roddy Tasia Sache
Rodriguez Elsa Patricia
Salguero Lester W Martinez
Sheehan Christopher Michael
Shook Nathan Patrick
Silva Bernardo Rodriguez
Sim Reksamey
Torres Vincent Simon
Woodall Jessi Michelle
Xiong Kham

Private 2

Alvarez Martha Noemi
Bolayog Blake Antonio
Brown Donald Dale
Carrillo Adrian
Delgado Francisco Genaro
Delgado Jorge Eduardo
Garabito Joseph Michael
Glin Bernard Garfield Ii
Gumiran Mark Anthony Anonue
Haefele Matthew Joseph
Harrison Rodney
Hernandez Jose Alfredo
Jones Jeremiah Lee
Kirkpatrick Jason Sean
Kruijer Alexander Ian Frede
Marasso Jordan Scott
Mccrary Jeffrey Dwayne
Miller Joshua Elbert
Mora Jessica Ann
Nava Revecca
Navarrete Mendoza Humberto
Neale Sarah Elizabeth Marie
Paz Stephanie Patricia
Perez Arnold Staana
Puente Ramiro
Roeber Randall Lee
Sanford Rasha Jerel
Shockley Seth William
Zook Steven Michael John

Bonus Update

Bonus qualifications and availabilities change continuously. For the most up to date information contact your nearest recruiter or retention NCO. Some changes include:

In addition to the NGB Top-Ten Military Occupational Specialties (MOS), each State's 20 Critical Skills has a 20K bonus. This gives each state a total of 30 MOSs at 20k. NGB Critical MOS; 11B, 13B, 21B, 31B, 63B, 88M, 91W, 92A, 92G, 92Y

California Army National Guard's critical MOSs: 11C, 13E, 13F, 15U, 15X, 19D, 19K,21E, 21J, 21V, 25F, 25L, 25Q, 63M, 92F, 92G, 92R, 92W, 94R, 96R

The Primary Service Enlisted Bonus (PSEB) is now open to Non-MOSQ Prior Service (PS) enlistees so long as they enlist into one of the 30 critical skills (NGB Top-Ten or State Critical Skill) and become MOSQ within 24-months.

The Military Occupational Specialty Critical Bonus (MOSCB) is open to ALL units. It does not have to be "within the same unit" as the previous policy stipulates. The original MOSCB Policy is still in effect, with the inclusion of these changes.

The Reenlistment Bonus will be paid lump-sum to ALL Soldiers regardless if they are CONUS or in theater. CONUS Soldiers will not receive their re-enlistment/extension bonus tax-free. Soldiers re-enlisting/extending while in Afghanistan, Iraq or Kuwait will receive their reenlistment/extension bonus tax-free.

There is NO LONGER A PROVISION requiring Soldiers with more than 18-years (upon their current ETS) to enlist only for the 3-year bonus. These Soldiers can re-enlist/extend for 3 or 6-years and receive a pro-rated bonus payment up to their 24-year mark. The law stipulates that to receive the Affiliation Bonus, a Soldier has to have FEWER than 20-years Time in Service (TIS). Therefore, if a Soldier has 19-years, 11-months and 29-days (remember when computing TIS you must add 1 day for inclusive days) TIS, they are eligible. If they have 20-years exactly, they are not eligible.

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In addition to these great bonuses, you can receive these benefits as well.

- Up to 100% Tuition Assistance
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- \$400,000 in low-cost Life Insurance
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By Marshall Ramsey
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Grizzly Newsletter

is published by the Directorate of Communications

California National Guard 9800 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force or the California State Military Department.

Grizzly Newsletter is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.

Grizzly Newsletter welcomes manuscripts photographs and feedback.

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Grizzly Newsletter

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